YASME Foundation
P.O. Box 2025 Castro Valley, California 94546

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LLOYD COLVIN - W6KG
IRIS COLVIN - W6QL
5200 PANAMA AVENUE
RICHMOND, CALIF. 94804
U.S.A.

26 May 1985

Dear Friend:

You have probably already heard, but we are sending you this letter to give you the sad news that our YASME president, Don Wallace, W6AM, passed away yesterday, 25 May 1985 at 1:30 PM.

He was active right up to the very last. On 24 May 1985, he played in a golf tournament, was on the air from W6AM, and then, around 5:00 PM, decided to go to the Virginia Country Club, of which he was an active member, and play some gin-rummy. While playing cards, he suffered a stroke and was rushed to the hospital where he was kept alive by artificial means until he passed away the following day.

On Wednesday, 29 May 1985, the funeral will be held, attended by the close family. Later, at 4:00 PM, a meeting will be held at the famous Wallace Antenna Farm in Palos Verdes Peninsula. All hams and friends who knew Don are urged to attend. We are flying down to attend this 4 o'clock meeting.

If the opportunity arises, we will pass on the condolencies from you and ourselves to all of Don's relatives and friends.

We will miss Don!

Respectfully,

Lloyd

Lloyd Colvin W6KG

Iris

Iris Colvin W6QL

DXCC OR WAZ

SO. CALIF DX CLUB

Bulletin

December 1982

President: Jim Stevenson, KM6B □ Vice President: Neil Kaltman, K6SMF
Treasurer: Don Moses, W6UY □ Secretary: Joe Locascio, K5KT
Directors: Tom Hoyne, N6NI; Lee Graves, WB6VTE; Jan Perkins, N6AW;
Bob Cobb, W6CN (membership); Mike Hudgens, W6YQ (bulletin)

Next meeting: The annual Christmas party, about 6:30 PM, at the Proud Bird Restaurant, 11022 Aviation Blvd. Wayne Gingrich, W6EUF, will present a program on his Scandinavian travels, including his DXpedition to the Aland Islands.

A look back at the dawn of amateur radio

Minneapolis amateur named Hoover Cup winner

By Jan Perkins, N6AW

The year was 1923. Don C. Wallace, of 9ZT-9XAX, Minneapolis, was honored by Secretary of Commerce Herbert Hoover for having the "best all-around homemade radio station in the U.S.A."

Amateurs then had the use of all wavelengths below 200 meters, and Don's license read: *Any Frequency, Any Power, Any Time.*

He had built the new—and controversial—continuous wave equipment for his station. It consisted of a 250-watt tube, self-excited by a Hartley circuit, operating on 215 and 115 meters. The power supply was a 4000-volt transformer and 124 electrolytic rectifiers (Leyden jars). In all, they required about ten gallons of fluid, a solution of battery water and 20 Mule Team Borax. He had a two-tube regenerative receiver (UV200/UV201) with a "low-loss" tuner. His antenna was a six-wire flattop on 12-foot wooden spreaders, 85 feet at the peak, with homemade 18-inch plate glass insulators.

Don had been heard in Alaska, New Zealand, Australia, Hawaii, Mexico, Panama, Puerto Rico, Cuba, England and France, in South America, all states of the U.S. and at the North Pole.

Using the self-assigned call *WU* and a half-inch fixed spark gap fired by a homewound 20-kv transformer, Don got started in 1910—only nine years after Marconi had bridged the Atlantic. By 1904 Fleming introduced the vacuum valve, or diode, and two years later De Forest announced the audion (triode). In 1913 Armstrong developed the regenerative receiver, and at the end of 1921, amateurs were being heard in Europe. Events moved rapidly during the dawn of radio, and Don was destined to be a part of it.

The first regulations governing amateur radio were in effect by 1912, and Don submitted a notarized statement that he could receive five words a minute. He was issued the call 6OC. When not operating, he was building a rotary spark gap.

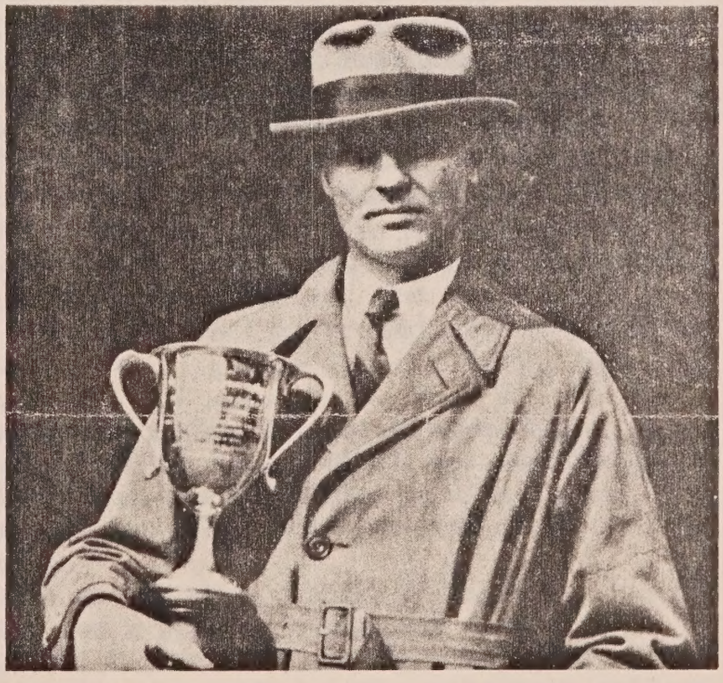
World War I began. He joined the Navy and was assigned to Treasure Island in San Francisco Bay. The Navy radio station NPG was equipped with a 300-kw arc transmitter; soon his code speed exceeded 40 WPM—both American and Morse.

The following year found him serving aboard a submarine as radioman. After eight months, the war ended and he was preparing to go home when, on shore leave, he ran across his old CO from Treasure Island. The *USS George Washington*, he learned, was being readied for President Wilson's passage to the Versailles Peace Conference, and equipment included a 40-kw rotary synchronous spark gap. Don wanted that job and got it—personal radio operator to the President.

After Versailles, Don went back to college in Minnesota. Amateur radio was authorized again, and he was issued 9ZT-9XAX. During the next few years he wrote more than 20 articles for *QST*.

In 1926 he joined an exclusive club—WAC Charter Member (fourth in the U.S.) Don moved back to California the next year and as 6AM he achieved WAC within 12 months (first to work WAC from two locations).

Now beginning his 73rd year of radio, Don takes particular enjoyment in working the new 10 MHz band. After all, his last QSO on 30 meters was in 1927, right before the band was lost in legislation.



Don C. Wallace, Hoover Cup recipient at the age of 24.

DX news highlights

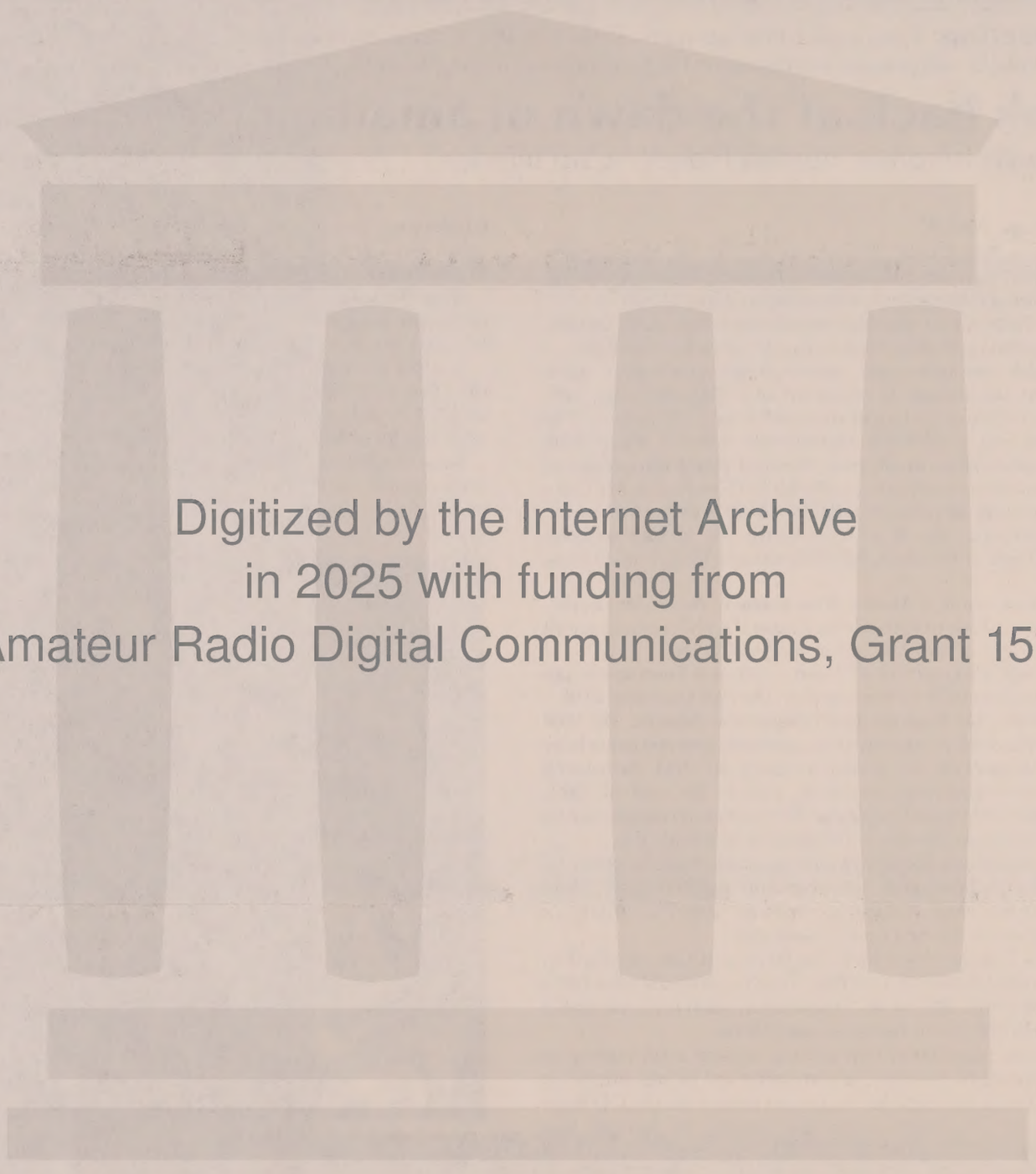
From **Tony, I0IJ**: "We do not plan operations from 1A0KM until next spring.... During the last operation (October 2 and 3) we made 3,076 QSOs in 29 hours (41% EU, 59% DX stations—almost 150 W6s); excellent conditions on 7 Mc at 03-05z (Tony, I0JX, and myself found lots of West Coast stations). Operators have been I0IJ, I0JX and I0MGM. For the next operation, it will be useful to know how many W6, KH6 and KL7 are still needing 1A0KM."

BY1PK advises that **BY8AA**, which commenced operation on November 4, is indeed legit. "Lml" and "Xxan," one of whom is a YL, are found 01-02z in the 21045 area, oftentimes working split. QSL Box 6106, Beijing.

Abu Ail by Lloyd and Iris Colvin signing **G5ACI/AA** should be on by the time you read this. December 2-3 for 48 hours was planned. QSL YASME.

FB8XAB expected on from Kerguelen during the week of December 6. The op is

Continued on page 3



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EXTRACT FROM DX BULLETIN 1980

PERSONAL PROFILE - Don C. Wallace, W6AM

Although Don got interested in amateur radio as a 10 year old in Long Beach in 1909, it was not until January 1911 that Don first became directly involved by finding some discarded electric automobile batteries and with a 10¢ investment in copper wire found he could make a spark. He then made his own transformer out of stove pipe metal and was soon "on the air." He rode his bike to KPJ, a commercial land-sea station on Terminal Island, to try to get a job as a wireless operator but found that he first had to go to San Francisco to get his commercial license. Undaunted, he got a job on a ship going between Long Beach and San Francisco and got his license. Returning to Long Beach, he finally got a job as a ship's radio operator on a ship ferrying freight and passengers between Long Beach and Catalina Island. He needed this job to show experience which counted towards his 1st class commercial license. He got another job on another ship going to San Francisco and passed his 1st class. Don was issued the call 60C in 1912.

At 18 years of age, Don entered Hamline College in St. Paul, Minn. to study business and banking. While in college Don set up a ham station with antennas going to all the high buildings, church steeples, etc., and Don soon became well known on the air as the "big signal" - a reputation he has never relinquished.

In 1917 during World War I, Don went into the Navy. He was first assigned to station NPG in San Francisco, becoming a CPO soon afterwards at the age of 19. After a tour of submarine duty, Don went to the Brooklyn Navy Yard. Because of his operating and equipment repair skills he was put in charge of radio communications on President Wilson's yacht "George Washington" for the trip to the Peace Conference in Versailles. Completing this mission, Don returned to Hamline College to complete his courses and play some football. There he met Ed Johnson, who later founded E.F. Johnson, Co. Don and Ed became good friends. After graduating and working about 5 years for General Electric Co. in Minneapolis selling National Radio Co. products, Don was offered a job by National Radio to sell their products in California. Moving back to Long Beach, Don sold National Radio and E.F. Johnson products as a manufacturer's representative. Don was a good friend of your editor's father, W6BY, and when Don was travelling around the west selling radio equipment to radio wholesalers, your editor, operating from Hermosa Beach, had regular schedules with W6AM/6 on 40 meter CW and would QSP messages to Mrs. Wallace in Long Beach. This seemed like such a fun way to earn a living that it became this high school ham's ambition to become an electronic "mfr's. rep.", which was eventually fulfilled after some similar experiences in college and the submarine service during World War II. Don also took this high school ham to his first ARRL convention in Los Angeles in 1938 when W6BY was too busy working.

At about this same time, Don made contact with an old friend from NPG days who was now Chief Engineer for Press Wireless and looking for a good location for a receiving site to go with their transmitting site in Playa del Rey (now Marina del Rey). Don recommended a 120 acre site in Palos Verdes and assisted in getting the reluctant sellers to sell to Press Wireless. In 1944 Press Wireless decided to move all of its operations to San Francisco and Don became the successful bidder for the property. The rest is current history.

Don, "Mr. DX", with 365 countries, has been at the top of the DXCC list for the past 25 years. At 81 years young you can still hear him almost daily in the pile ups or on the SCDXC 2 meter repeater reporting rare DX stations to the "big guns" or just plain DX stations for the beginning DX'ers. Even though Don has won just about every award and honor in the DX field, he has always championed the cause of the beginner, and to paraphrase his philosophy - "don't make it too hard to get in - you can learn the rest after you're in."

Don, W6AM, has been and still is an inspiration for all radio amateurs, but especially for us in the DX fraternity. Don, you're still the tops!

QUARTER CENTURY WIRELESS ASSOCIATION, INC.
1409 COOPER DRIVE
IRVING, TEXAS 75061
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Esther Given, W6BDE
Art Milligan, W8KW
Wade Holland, W4AZT

June 28, 1984

Mr. Don Wallace, W6AM
28503 Highridge Road
Palos Verdes, CA 90274

Dear Don:

As you know, at its Spring, 1984 meeting in Dallas, the QCWA Board of Directors unanimously elected you to the QCWA HALL OF FAME. Your election is the fifth to that Office and brings much honor to QCWA.

The Award consists of a suitable plaque together with the appropriate ceremony of the Award, to be presented at the 1984 Annual QCWA Convention, scheduled this year for Hartford, CT. Now, it just isn't possible to get much further from California than Connecticut. I has occurred to me that you might not be able to make the trip to Hartford, no matter how much we would like to have you there. If this is the case, please let me know at your convenience, and I will make arrangements for the Award to be presented with proper ceremony, in the California area.

I have been reading some old material on Don Wallace, written in the 1920's - Don, you have been an inspiration to more young men and women though the years than you can ever know. I can honestly remember hearing your CW in the late 1920's, when I was a very young man, not yet with a license, learning the code and hoping someday to get on the air. For all of them let me say, thank you for setting an example of good operating practice for all of us to follow.

Congratulations on the Award, let me hear from you on the possibility of your attendance at the Hartford meeting, September 21, 22 and 23, 1984. (QCWA NEWS, Summer issue, Page 43).

Sincerely,

A nonprofit association for the promotion of amateur radio

Ted Hefthecker, W5EJ
General Manager, QCWA Inc.

cc/W6DHF